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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 32

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源義朝
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義経（童名 牛若丸）
円成（童名 乙若丸）
全成（童名 今若丸）
範頼
希義
義門
頼朝
頼長
義平

遮那王 義経

シャナオウ

遮那王 義経

SAWADA HIROFUMI
沢田ひろふみ

⑨

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

KCGM920
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遮那王 義経 ⑨
沢田ひろふみ

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本物の牛若丸死す！牛若の遺志、それは平家を倒すことだった。そのためには鞍馬を脱出し奥州へ行かねばならない。軒下一座の面々との別れに、遮那王の心はゆれる……。

沢田ひろふみ作品
遮那王―義経―1～9
山賊王 1～5
以下続刊

2003年10月

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沢田ひろふみ

The story so far:

Hyouta met Ushiwakamaru, a boy with the blood of the Minamoto clan who looks exactly like him. Ushiwaka was confined to his house by his clan's rival, Taira no Kiyomori, so Hyouta, taking his place, allowed Ushiwakamaru to explore the world outside his walls. However, when Taira no Kiyomori felt threatened by the anger smoldering from Hyouta as he pretended to be Ushiwakamaru, he quickly sent the boy away to Kurama Temple.

While Ushiwakamaru performed with Hyouta's companions on the streets, complications arose which piqued Kiyomori's suspicion of the group, and an agent was dispatched to investigate. Ushiwaka killed the agent in the end.

Ushiwaka, having killed a man, locked himself within the library of his house.

When Kiyomori's suspicions were roused regarding Hyouta's identity, the terminally ill Ushiwaka traveled to Kurama temple to warn Hyouta. At their reunion, Ushiwaka requested Hyouta to take up his desire to defeat the Taira in the event he died.

Once safely returned to his home, Ushiwaka's health took a turn for the worse and he started vomiting blood. Knowing his death was inevitable, he once again pleaded with Hyouta to take his identity and live as 'Ushiwakamaru.' Upon Hyouta's agreement, Ushiwaka passed away without regrets.

Although Hyouta initially could not accept Ushiwaka's death, he gradually recognized the reality and accepted a life as 'Ushiwaka.'

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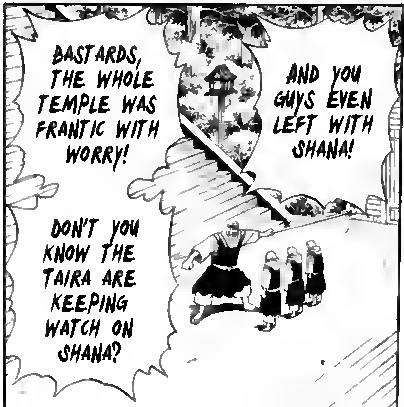
Chapter 32 The Identity of the Tengu

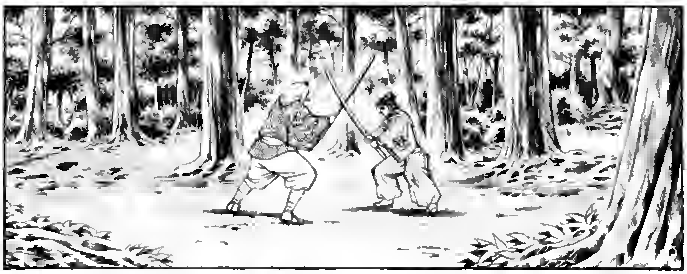
DO YOU WANT TO DIE? HUH!?
HOW DARE YOU LEAVE WITHOUT PERMI-SSION!


BASTARDS, THE WHOLE TEMPLE WAS FRANTIC WITH WORRY!
AND YOU GUYS EVEN LEFT WITH SHANA!
DON'T YOU KNOW THE TAIRA ARE KEEPING WATCH ON SHANA?

UGH!

WHERE IS SHANA OH?
MASTER K.KUJI-TSU...
S-SORRY...
SHOUEN,
HE HASN'T RETURNED YET?
UM...
SHANA SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE US...
HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU...
MASTER KAKUJITSU IS ANGRY...
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM SO GRIM BEFORE...
YES...
IF YOU FIND HIM, SEND HIM TO ME IMMEDIATELY!
I WONDER WHERE HE RAN OFF TO?
SHANA WON'T GET AWAY UN-SCATHED THIS TIME

ドン
ハーアッ

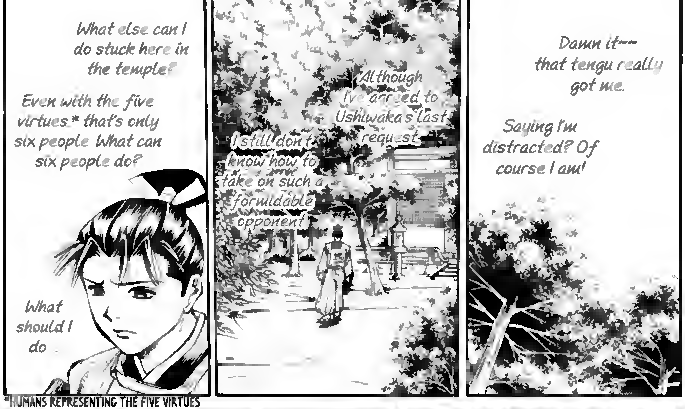


HAAA!
wiish

KUA RGH!
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU HAVEN'T CHALLENGED ME LATELY ...
WHAT ARE THESE TERRIBLE MOVEMENTS?
YOU'VE FALLEN APART!
DID YOU FORGET EVERYTHING I TAUGHT YOU?!
DAMN YOU!

ガッ
キッ
UW AAH!
!!
BASTARD!

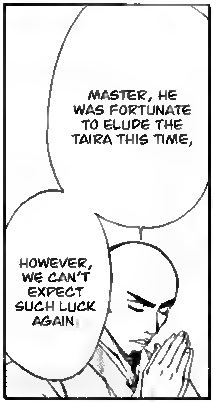
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU,
BUT YOUR MIND IS OBVIOUSLY DISTRACTED
YOU WON'T DEFEAT ME IN A HUNDRED TRIES LIKE THIS
IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO VENT YOUR ANGER ON SOMEONE,
DON'T COME TO ME!

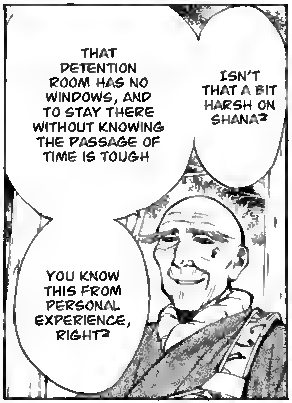

What else can I do stuck here in the temple?
Even with the five virtues* that's only six people. What can six people do?
What should I do
Although I'm answering Ushiwaka's last request...
I still don't know how to take on such a formidable opponent...
Damn it— that tengu really got me.
Saying I'm distracted? Of course I am!

*HUMANS REPRESENTING THE FIVE VIRTUES

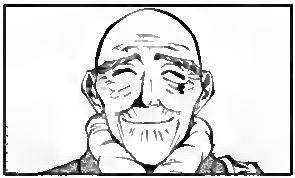
YOU REQUESTED THE TOKUDO CEREMONY WITH A DECEITFUL PURPOSE, AND LEFT THE TEMPLE WITHOUT PERMISSION.
THESE BEHAVIORS ARE AGAINST THE TEACHING OF BUDDHA.
IF YOU WERE DISCOVERED BY THE TAIRA,
THEY WOULD BE HOSTILE TOWARDS THE TEMPLE, AND THEN HOW WOULD YOU FACE EVERYONE AGAIN?
YOU WILL STAY HERE,
AND THOROUGHLY REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS

YES

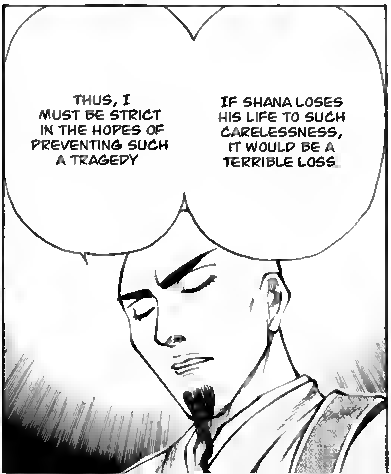

MASTER, HE WAS FORTUNATE TO ELUDE THE TAIRA THIS TIME,
HOWEVER, WE CAN'T EXPECT SUCH LUCK AGAIN

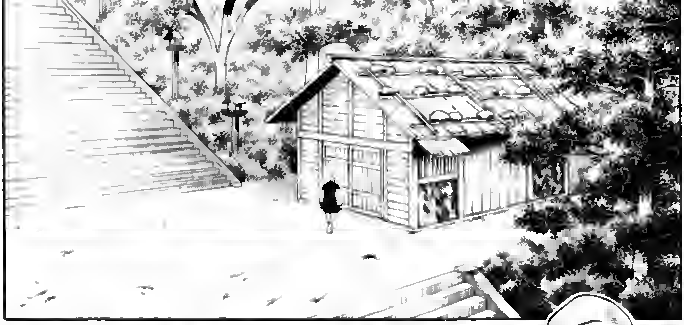

THAT DETENTION ROOM HAS NO WINDOWS, AND TO STAY THERE WITHOUT KNOWING THE PASSAGE OF TIME IS TOUGH
ISN'T THAT A BIT HARSH ON SHANA?
YOU KNOW THIS FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, RIGHT?

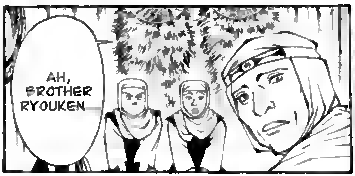
KAKU-JITSU,



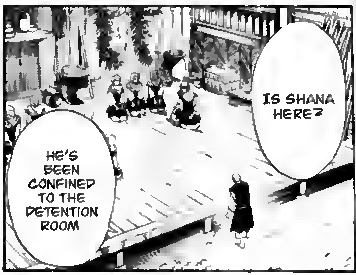
EVERY-THING IS FOR SHANA OH

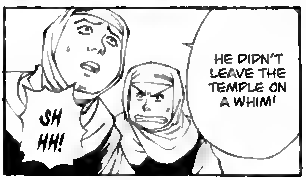

THUS, I MUST BE STRICT IN THE HOPES OF PREVENTING SUCH A TRAGEDY
IF SHANA LOSES HIS LIFE TO SUCH CARELESSNESS, IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE LOSS

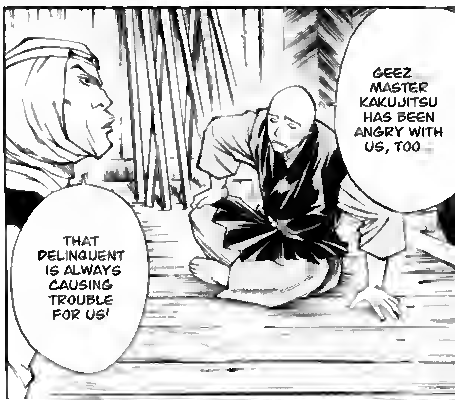



AH, BROTHER RYOUKEN

PHEW


IS SHANA HERE?
HE'S BEEN CONFINED TO THE DETENTION ROOM

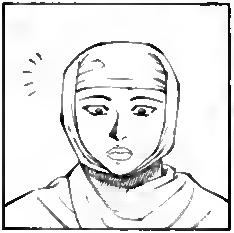

HE DIDN'T LEAVE THE TEMPLE ON A WHIM!
SHHH!

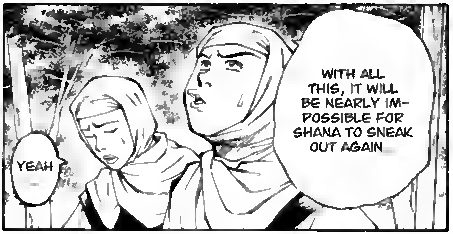

GEEZ MASTER KAKUJITSU HAS BEEN ANGRY WITH US, TOO
THAT DELINQUENT IS ALWAYS CAUSING TROUBLE FOR US!

Idiot! Don't spill it!
So-rry

WE MUST INCREASE DEFENSE ON THE FLANKS, AND PUT THE FRONT GATE UNDER RESOLUTE SURVEILLANCE.
SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN A BIT TOO LENIENT ON SHANA.....
EH?
THIS IS OUR DUTY, TO PROTECT THE TEMPLE.
DO NOT LET SHANA TAKE EVEN ONE STEP OUTSIDE THE FRONT GATE.
YES
EVEN IF HE IS YOUR FRIEND, DO NOT BE LENIENT.
YES!

IT'S BECOME EVEN HARSHER




WITH ALL THIS, IT WILL BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SHANA TO SNEAK OUT AGAIN
YEAH

I WOULD LIKE TO MEET SHANA OH. WHERE CAN I FIND HIM?
EXCUSE ME,
YES?
HE CAN'T SEE YOU...
AH... SHANA IS UNAVAILABLE RIGHT NOW....
A... A MESSAGE FROM NAGANARI-DONO?
CAN YOU PLEASE TELL ME WHERE HE IS?
I BRING A MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE AD-MINISTRA-TOR
THESE TWO SHOULD BE THE ONES WITH SHANA
Why is he looking for Shana?

Knock
Knock
SHANA
OH, CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YOU RODE WITH ME TO THE FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR'S ESTATE
WHO IS IT?
MY NAME IS KICHIJI.
DO YOU STILL REMEMBER ME?

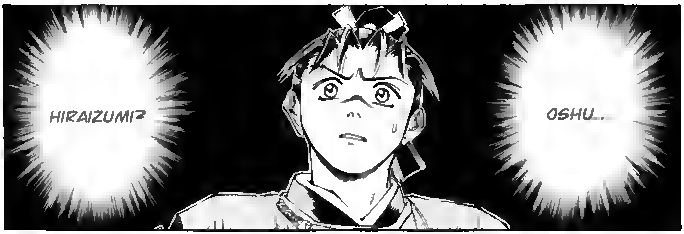
I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU
IT'S REALLY HARD TO TALK LIKE THIS
WHAT IS IT?
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
EH? THAT MERCHANT?
!!

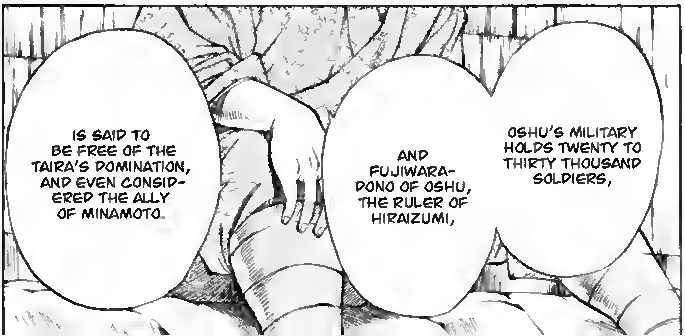
O-OI!
DON'T BE SO IMPULSIVE!
YEP!
I WASN'T BEING RASH
THIS IS MUCH BETTER.
MR. USHIWAKA'S DOUBLE!
!!
YOU... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THE FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR TOLD ME EVERYTHING
NAGANARI-DONO

EH?
SHANA OH...
YOU LOOK SO CONFUSED,
THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE SAYS YOU WANT TO DEFEAT THE TAIRA IN USHIWAKA'S STEAD,
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DIRECTION TO TAKE.
YOU ALSO WANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR ROLE AS USHIWAKA,
BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR LADY TOKIWA
YOU FEEL THIS IS THE BEST CHOICE FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE...

SO WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
SHUT UP.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
I CAME TO GUIDE YOU TOWARDS USHIWAKA'S FINAL REQUEST...
WOULD YOU LISTEN?
IF I SAY...
WHAT!
REALLY?
THEN WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SEEK YOUR ANSWERS IN HIRAIZUMI.
OSHU.


HIRAIZUMI?
OSHU...

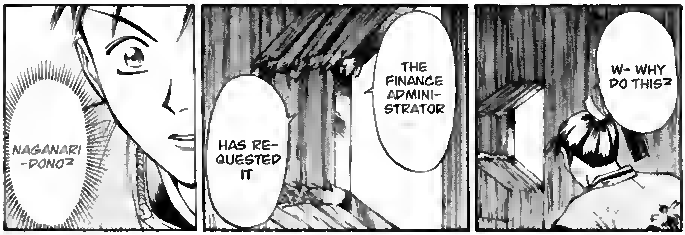

IS SAID TO BE FREE OF THE TAIRA'S DOMINATION, AND EVEN CONSIDERED THE ALLY OF MINAMOTO.
AND FUJIWARA-DONO OF OSHU, THE RULER OF HIRAIZUMI,
OSHU'S MILITARY HOLDS TWENTY TO THIRTY THOUSAND SOLDIERS,

IF YOU CAN GAIN HIS SUPPORT,
WOULDN'T YOU HAVE SUFFICIENT FORCE TO CHALLENGE THE TAIRA?

MINAMOTO TREASURE BESTOWED BY FUJIWARA OF HIRAIZUMI HIMSELF!
AH! THAT FUJIWARA!
FUJI-WARA OF HIRAIZU-MI?

THEN USHIWAKA'S DREAM OF DEFEATING THE TAIRA COULD BECOME POSSIBLE!
THAT'S IT! IF I GO AND MANAGE TO IMPRESS HIM IN THE ROLE OF USHI-WAKA, THERE'S A CHANCE HE MIGHT LEND A HAND.

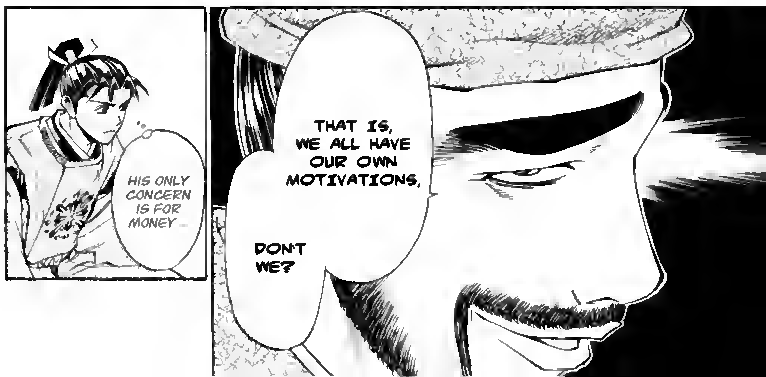
I WILL BRING YOU...
TO MEET LORD FUJIWARA OF HIRAIZUMI.


W- WHY DO THIS?
THE FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR
HAS REQUESTED IT
NAGANARI-DONO?

HE SEEMS TO HAVE SOME RELATIVES THERE,
AND IF LORD FUJIWARA WILL LISTEN TO YOU, YOU CAN ASK HIM DIRECTLY.
ALSO,
NAGANARI-DONO IS REALLY LOOKING OUT FOR ME

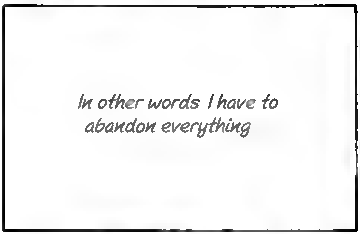
YOU...
ARE WORTH A BIT OF MONEY.

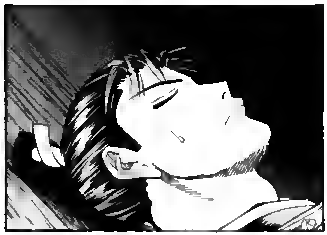
AND THIS PLEASES HI-DEHIRA-DONO, HE COULD REWARD ME
AND HIS GOOD WILL IS BENEFICIAL TO ME
IF I BRING YOSHITOMO'S SON TO HIM,
MONEY ?


HIS ONLY CONCERN IS FOR MONEY...
THAT IS, WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN MOTIVATIONS,
DON'T WE?

WE'LL LEAVE IN TEN DAYS.
WE'LL HAVE TO VISIT THE FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR'S HOUSEHOLD BEFORE WE GO.
IT WILL BE A TROUBLESOME JOURNEY, BUT I'LL GET YOU THERE SAFELY.
I HAVE TO LEAVE KURAMA TEMPLE.
AH, RIGHT. IF I WANT TO FULFIL USHIWAKA-S WISH,
IF YOU AREN'T READY TO GO IN TEN DAYS, I WILL LEAVE YOU.
EXCUSES LIKE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, OR COULDN'T LEAVE THE TEMPLE...
DON'T FAIL USHIWAKA'S EXPECTATIONS OF YOU.
WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.
YOUR ONLY CHANCE IS IN TEN DAYS.

It's inevitable if I follow this path
I will be gaining Kajiti and the other's Shouen and Masai Kakujitsu too
Leaving Hyouma Tenpyo's men...
Also I cannot leave openly so I must sneak out quietly as possible

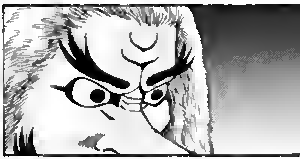

In other words I have to abandon everything



THREE DAYS LATER
SHANA OH...
DID YOU REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS?
IF YOU HAVE REPENTED, YOU MAY COME OUT.
?
I AM TRULY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CARE
I AM REALLY THANKFUL
MASTER KAKUJITSU, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GUIDANCE
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS TOWARDS ME
W-WHAT IS THIS?
WAS IT TOO MUCH?

GET YOUR ASS OUT HERE!
OI, TENGU!

ザッ
ザッ
ビュッ
ビュッ
DID YOU MANAGE TO REFOCUS YOUR MIND WHILE IN THE DETENTION ROOM, SHANA OH?
WH-WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
I JUST CAME HERE TO PRACTICE WITH YOU.
OH, NOTHING...
I WILL NOT GO EASY ON YOU I WILL TRAIN YOU EVEN HARDER
UNTIL YOU REGAIN YOUR FORMER STRENGTH!



キュン
キュン
キュン
ヒュッ

plop
HMM...

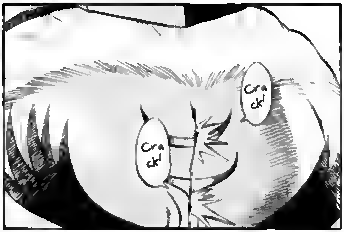
You don't have...
to go easy on me!
T-THE HESITATION IN HIS EYES...
HAS DISAPPEARED!

HE'S QUITE SKILLED, AT LEAST THE EQUAL OF ANY CHILD BORN TO A SAMURAI HOUSEHOLD
LEARNING SWORDSMANSHIP FROM A TENGU? HOW AMUSING

Crack!

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR TIME
I COULD NEVER HAVE IMPROVED SO MUCH WITHOUT YOUR HELP

I OWE IT ALL TO YOU!


Cra ck!
Cra ck!

Cra ck!
Cra ck!

FOR ALL YOUR TEACHING,
Crack!
ガラン
ガラン
GAZAN-DONO.

H-HE IS...
GAZAN NAOHIRA!
WHY HAS A HIGHLY RANKED SAMURAI OF THE TAIRA...
BEEN TEACHING SWORDSMANSHIP TO SHANA OH AS A TENGU?

I SHOULD HAVE NOTICED EARLIER...
HONEST-LY, WHETHER YOU'RE WEARING A MASK OR NOT, YOUR FACE IS STILL THE SAME SHAPE...
I'VE KNOWN FOR FOUR OR FIVE YEARS...
?
...!
FORGIVE MY IMPERTINENCE...
FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS...
MAS-TER USHI-WAKA,
YOUR SKILL HAS BEEN SO IMPRESSIVELY REFINED,
AND I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER TO TE CH YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THIS ACHIEVEMENT...
WAS THANKS TO YOUR TEACHING
NOW, I CAN PROTECT MYSELF...
WHEN I LEAVE THE TEMPLE
YOU'RE LEAVING THE TEMPLE?
I PLAN TO LEAVE,
AND GO TO OSHU.
TO OSHU?
WHY?

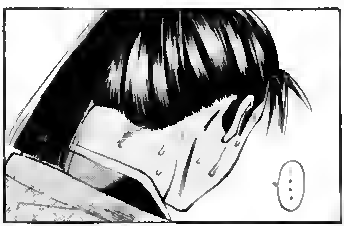
TO GAIN THE POWER...
TO MAKE THE TAIRA'S DEFEAT A REALITY!
!!!
I HAVE WAITED YEARS TO HEAR THOSE WORDS.
I AM OVERJOYED TO SEE YOU BEHAVING LIKE THE GENJI GENERAL'S SON.
HO!!

GAZAN-DONO,
YES

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...

GENJI GENERAL'S SON...
...

I AM NOT THE REAL USHIWAKAMARU.
I'VE HIDDEN IT FOR A LONG TIME,
BUT I CAN'T JUSTIFY DECEIVING YOU ANY LONGER.


...

PLEASE DON'T SAY IT!
I AM ACTUALLY
EH?
IF IT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN HIDING FOR SO LONG,
IT MUST BE SOMETHING THAT MIGHT AFFECT YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY,
THEREFORE IT IS SOMETHING THAT I SHOULDN'T KNOW

I, GAZAN NAOHIRA,
HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR USHIWAKA-DONO'S DECISION TO CHALLENGE THE ODDS
AS YOUR RETAINER, I WILL SACRIFICE MY LIFE AND EVERYTHING I OWN FOR YOU WITH NO REGRETS

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I WILL NEVER BETRAY YOU,
SO PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME!

GAZAN-DONO...
I UNDER-STAND.
WITH A TENGU AS AN ALLY, I FEEL INVINCIBLE NOW.
HEH...

Whether it's Yorumisa or Gozan, these eminent men are willing to give assistance to Shana Oh.
Even Gozan Naohira recognizes him as master.
This kid is the real deal! In fact the jackpot itself!
He did not receive this support simply because of the blood of Minamoto but rather earned it through skill and perseverance.
A FASCINATING JOURNEY!
THIS WILL SURELY BE...
CHAPTER 32 - END

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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Shana Oh Yoshitsune 33

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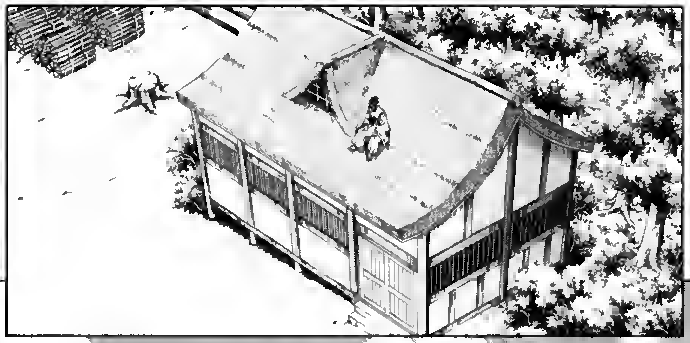


Leaving Kurama!

I WILL LEAVE YOU.
IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO GO,
I'LL TAKE YOU TO OSHU. WE'RE LEAVING IN TEN DAYS
NO MATTER WHAT, WITHIN SEVEN DAYS, I MUST HAVE LEFT THE TEMPLE AND BE AT USHIWAKA'S HOME
I NEED KICHIJI TO TAKE ME SOMEWHERE SO FAR AWAY AS OSHU. I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY
BUT HOW...?
I HAVE TO ELUDE EVERYONE AT THE TEMPLE

鞍馬山鞍馬寺
TAP
!!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING,
SHANA OH?!!

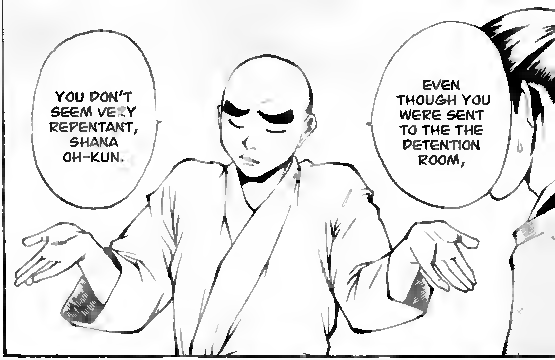
I'M GOING FOR A WALK.
TAKE YOUR WALK INSIDE THE TEMPLE GROUNDS!!
YOU MAY NOT!!
Whoosh
whoosh
Hmph

Hah!
Fuh!
Heh!
Hoh!
Swish
!?
HAA
HAA
HAA
Tap
WHEEEE
WHEEEE

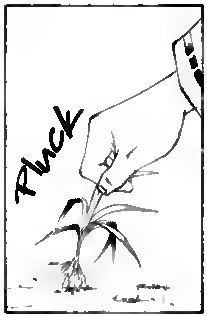
GRAB
HA!!
I'M SERIOUS!
THIS TIME,
DAMN.
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, TURTLE FACE?!
THAT HURTS!
THE OTHER GUARDS ARE ALSO KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR YOU.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO OUTSIDE!

HE TALKS LIKE HE'S SO GREAT!!
HMPH! STUPID SHOEN!
EVEN RYOUKEN-SAMA IS SO STRICT ON SHANA THIS TIME...
WATCH OVER HERE FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT
THERE'S ANOTHER WAY OUT!
I DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE USING THE GATES!
Dou
!
Tap
Tap!
THIS IS BAD... THEY'RE ALL ACTUALLY WATCHING FOR ME...!

Ki-
Kicchou
...

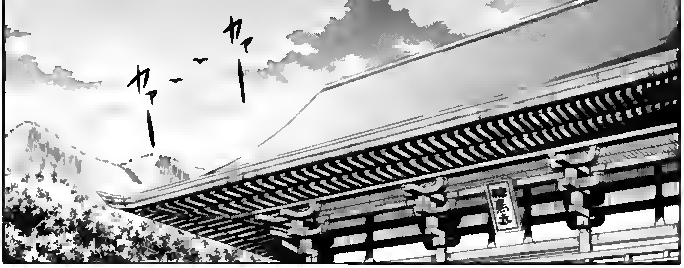

YOU DON'T SEEM VERY REPENTANT, SHANA OH-KUN.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE SENT TO THE THE DETENTION ROOM,

IDIOT!!
HURRY UP AND GET TO WORK,


Pluck

I SHOULD AT LEAST TELL THEM THAT I'M LEAVING THE TEMPLE...
I CAN'T ASK THEM TO COME OVER HERE EITHER...
WHAT SHOULD I DO... AT THIS RATE, I CAN'T GO SEE KAJIKA AND THE OTHERS...
HEY, DO IT PROPERLY!
I AM!
YOU REALLY DID SOMETHING STUPID, SNEAKING AWAY FROM THE TEMPLE
ALTHOUGH, IF YOU HAD REALLY LEFT THE TEMPLE,
I WOULD FINALLY GET TO RELAX.
WHAT, SOMEONE'S JOINING?
WHEN ANOTHER KID JOINS ZENRINDO...
DON'T BE SO STUCK UP,
IT'S AN "IF" THING.
THEY'LL PROBABLY HATE YOU.
KIC-CHOU,

NO ...
YOU ACTUALLY HATE ME?!!
WAIT A SEC! SO EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOU,
I'M GLAD MY ROOMMATE ...
IS YOU, KICCHOU.
WHAT IS HE PLOTTING?
DISGUSTING PRAISE HE GAVE ME!?
W-WHAT IS WITH THAT
.....

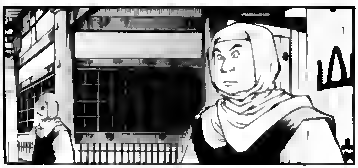


THEY'RE WATCHING THE FRONT GATES CAREFULLY
UWAAH,

Peek
Grab

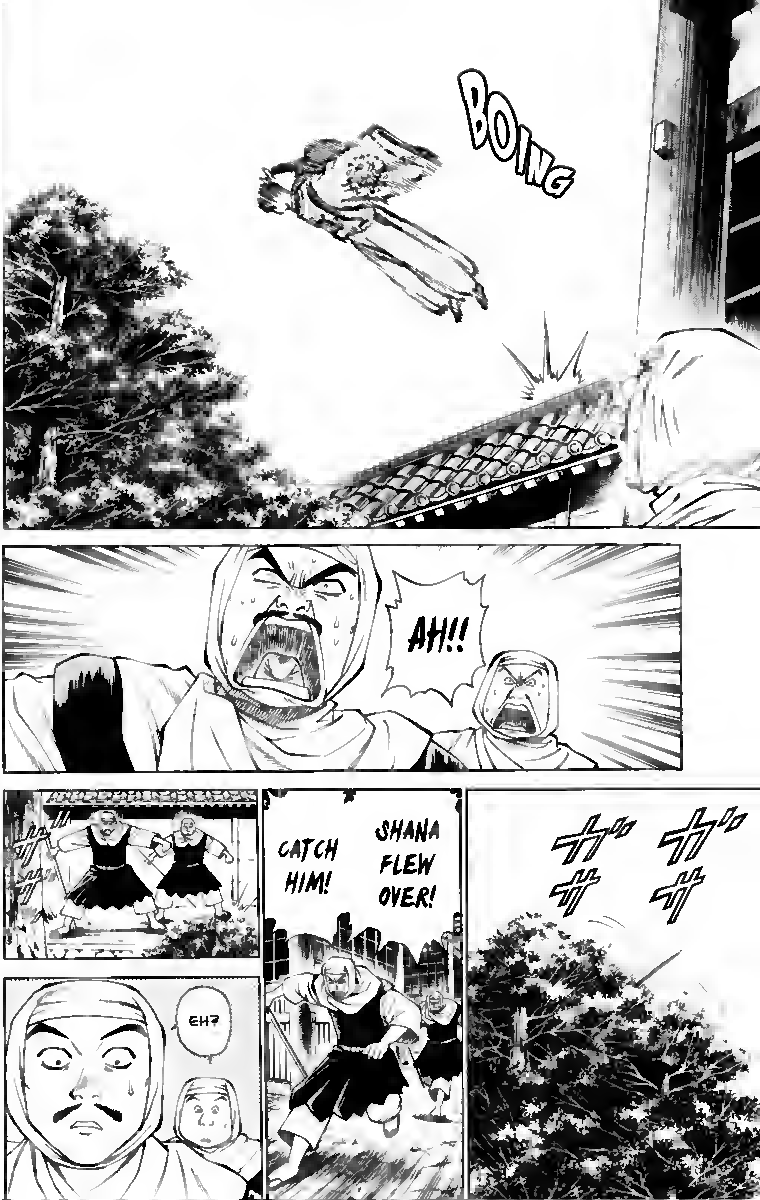
I WORKED SO HARD TODAY
HMM~

SO THOSE TWO ARE ON GUARD TODAY, HUH
GUESS I'LL DO IT THEN!

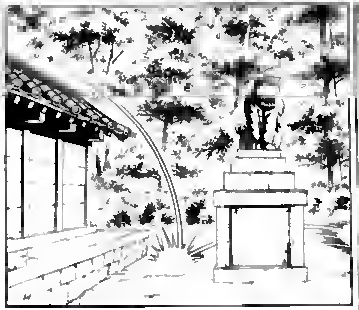


SHANA, DON'T YOU DARE THINK ABOUT LEAVING!!
RYOUKEN-SAMA HAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN YOU!!
SO WHAT SHOULD I DO,
IF I FEEL LIKE LEAVING?
OH~
IS THAT SO...
DON'T MESS WITH US!
WE'LL NEVER LET YOU ESCAPE!
HMM~
BUT DO YOU THINK JUST THE TWO OF YOU CAN CATCH ME?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
HEHE
GUESS I WON'T TRY LEAVING TODAY
AH,
JUST SO YOU KNOW

BUT IF YOU KEEP LOOKING DOWN, YOU'LL MISS WHAT'S ABOVE YOU. I'D KEEP AN EYE OUT IF I WERE YOU
WELL THEN,
WORK HARD
HE MIGHT BE TRYING TO ESCAPE TODAY AS WELL.
WE'LL DEFINITELY STOP HIM!!
RUSTLE
WE'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU!
SURE! THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!


BOING
AH!!
CATCH HIM!
SHANA FLEW OVER!
EH?

#2
A... DOLL!?



THEY FELL FOR IT!
Such an awesome escape trick!

wave
wave
SAP
GO ALONE!
AKAHANA, DAIBUTSU, COME WITH ME
UM, I'M GOING TO GO USE THE RESTROOM
ALL RIGHT, I'M OFF THEN
EH?
SHANA'S CALLING

SHANA,
WHERE ARE YOU?
UWA!
KEEP IT DOWN!
YOU'RE OFF THE GROUNDS, IS THAT OKAY?
I NEED TO TELL YOU GUYS SOMETHING
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO LEAVE THE TEMPLE,
AND HEAD TO OSHU!

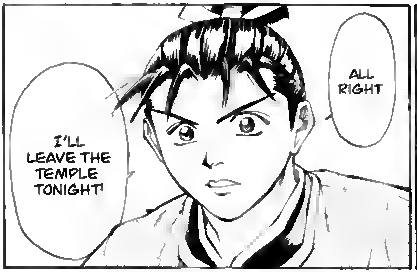
EH!?
W-WHY?
TO CARRY OUT USHIWAKA'S WILL.
I'M GOING TO OSHU TO MEET A POWERFUL MAN!
I HAVE TO LEAVE IN SEVEN DAYS.
DO YOU GUYS KNOW OF A WAY?
TO DEFEAT THE TAIRA CLAN...?

ARE WE COMING WITH YOU?
NO.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FOOD HERE,
AND THE TEMPLE NEEDS PEOPLE
I'M GOING ALONE!
S-SO WE'RE GONNA BE SEPARATED?
PLUS, OSHU IS SO FAR AWAY, WE CAN'T MEET YOU AT ALL
AND IF YOU LEAVE, HYOUTA, YOU CAN'T COME BACK
But ...
I'VE ALREADY DECIDED!!

WE'LL HELP YOU!
OKAY,
IT'S ONLY NATURAL TO SUPPORT HIM, RIGHT?
SINCE THAT'S WHAT HYOUTA DECIDED,
EH, KAJIKA?
WHEN YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE!
BUT DURING THESE SEVEN DAYS,THERE'S ONE DAY...
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
I KNOW.
WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GET YOU OUT
HYOUTA, THE INCREASED SECURITY

R-REALLY!? WHEN?
Ehmee
No!
T-TONIGHT?!
TONIGHT!!
*T/N: GOHO-MAO-SON IS ONE OF THE GODS OF KURAMA TEMPLE, MAO-TEN IS 'MAO'S HALL'
TONIGHT, IT'S OUR TURN TO WATCH OVER THE EAST SIDE OF MOUNTAIN.
IT'S PUNISHMENT FOR LEAVING THE MOUNTAIN WITH YOU.
LET'S MEET AT MAO-TEN* AT MIDNIGHT.

AND LET YOU ESCAPE!!
WE'LL KEEP WATCH ON THE OTHER GUARDS,


I'LL LEAVE THE TEMPLE TONIGHT!
ALL RIGHT

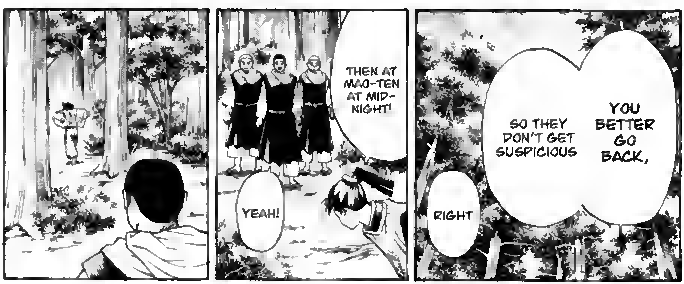
TONIGHT

IT'S NOTHING!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
KEH,

AND PUNISH YOU SEVERELY ?
BUT WON'T THEY CATCH YOU FOR LETTING ME ESCAPE,

MAKE SURE TO ESCAPE!
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD OF US.
TONIGHT, SHANA OH'S ESCAPE PERFORMANCE,
BY THE NOKISHITA TROUPE...
IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!
clasp
grab
clasp
grab
clasp
HEH.

THANK YOU,
EVERY-ONE!


YOU BETTER GO BACK,
SO THEY DON'T GET SUSPICIOUS
RIGHT
THEN AT MAO-TEN AT MID-NIGHT!
YEAH!

WON'T YOU BE LONELY, SEPARATED FROM HYOUTA?
BUT KAJIKA, ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH WITH THIS?
GOING TO OSHU MIGHT AS WELL BE A FOREIGN COUNTRY ..
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS FIRST RIN, NOW HYOUTA'S LEAVING US
THE WORDS HE SAID AS HE WAS DYING
MUKADE-JII'S WORDS?
DAIBUTSU, DO YOU REMEMBER MUKADE-JII'S WORDS?

HANG IN THERE, MUKADE-JI!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
is ending quite soon.
It seems the time I was able to spend caring for you...
YES ...
You have to work together and live.
Stick together and help each other out.
And everyone, listen well.
Rin...
but the world isn't always simple.
You'll have to live on your own from now on,

Except ...
For Hyouta.
Don't stop Hyouta,
If he goes his own way.
WHY?
WHY ONLY HYOUTA?
Don't suppress
his potential.

?
You'll understand someday.
Are we clear, everyone?
Y... YES...
HYOUTA IS DIFFERENT FROM US
THE MEANING OF THOSE WORDS
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
HE SHOULDN'T BE...
TRAPPED HERE.

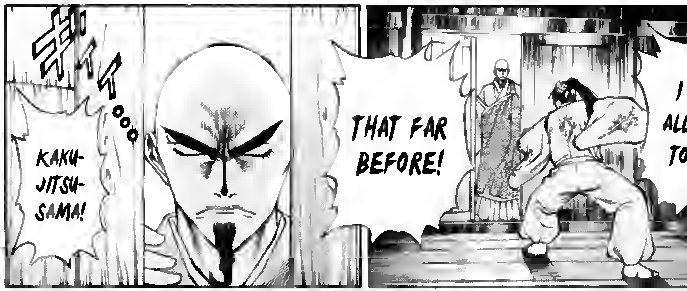
HE IS MORE SUITED
FOR THE WIDE WORLD OUTSIDE!!
YOU'VE REALIZED IT TOO, RIGHT?
Well...
YEAH...
HIS NEW JOURNEY STARTS HERE.
LET'S MAKE SURE WE'RE SMILING WHEN WE PART!

Tonight
It's sudden but if I miss this chance, I'm finished
Yes!
This way I'll make it to Oshu!
THERE HE IS!!
AH!!
HE'S OVER THERE!!
CRAP, IT'S THE GUARDS!

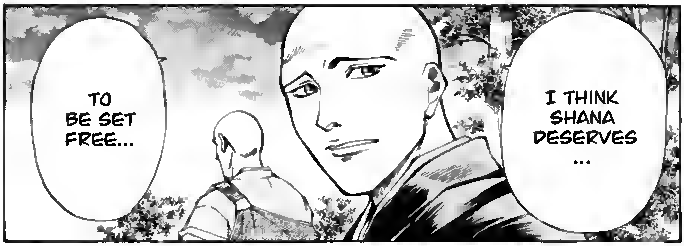
RYOUKEN!!
WHY ...
ARE YOU OFF THE GROUNDS?

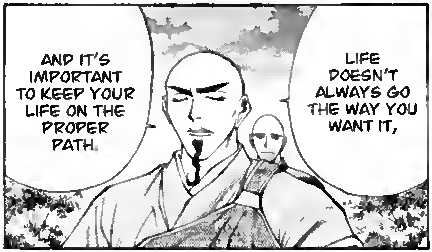
ROOM DETENTION

I DIDN'T GO DOWN THE MOUNTAIN!
YOU'RE WRONG! I JUST WENT OUT FOR A BIT!

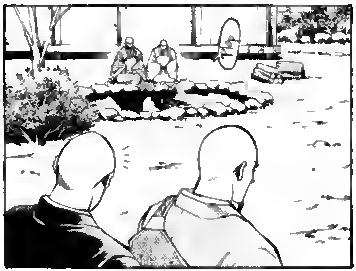

KAKU-JITSU-SAMA!
THAT FAR BEFORE!
I WAS ALLOWED TO GO...

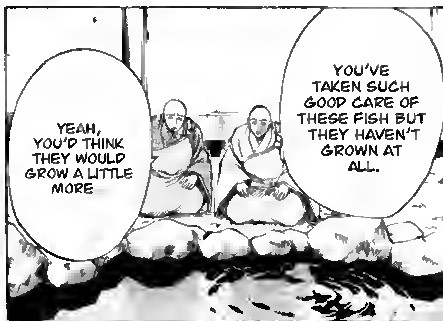
I WON'T LET HIM OUT FOR TEN DAYS,
BUT I'M RELYING ON YOU TO KEEP WATCH
I DIDN'T THINK SHANA OH WOULD BREAK THE RULE THIS QUICKLY.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, RYOUKEN-SAN.
YES, I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM,
BUT HE HAS, ONCE AGAIN, BROKEN A RULE.
HE DOESN'T CONSIDER HIS ACTIONS.
BUT I DO FEEL A BIT SORRY FOR HIM...
HE WAS INDEED ALLOWED TO GO THAT FAR BEFORE...
HE WAS FORCED TO JOIN THIS TEMPLE AT THE ORDER OF THE TAIRA CLAN,
AND FOR US TO KEEP WATCH ON HIM WHILE HE STAYS IN THE TEMPLE, IT SEEMS...
LIKE WE'RE THE TAIRA CLAN'S LACKEYS, CHAINING SHANA HERE...
YES ...
I UNDERSTAND BUT...


I THINK SHANA DESERVES ...
TO BE SET FREE...

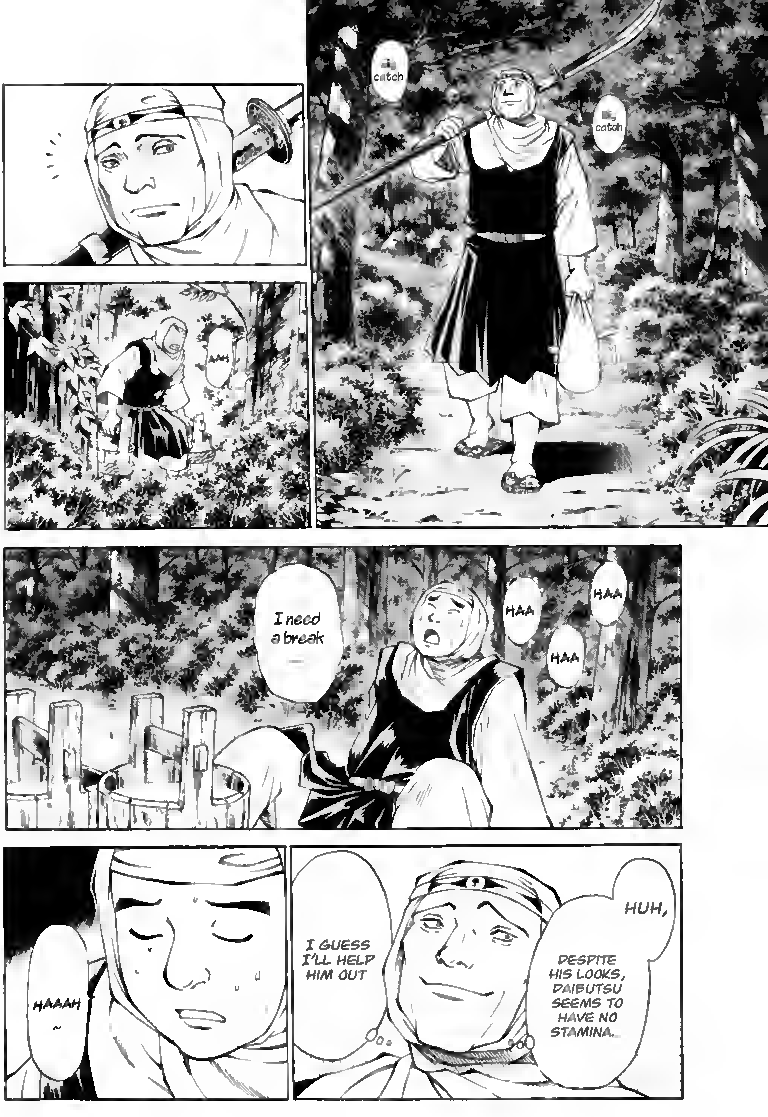

LIFE DOESN'T ALWAYS GO THE WAY YOU WANT IT,
AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR LIFE ON THE PROPER PATH.

MAYBE SINCE THIS POND IS SO SMALL,
THEIR GROWTH ADJUSTED TO MATCH IT?



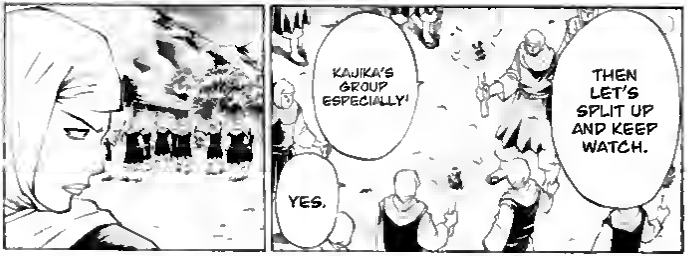

YOU'VE TAKEN SUCH GOOD CARE OF THESE FISH BUT THEY HAVEN'T GROWN AT ALL.
YEAH, YOU'D THINK THEY WOULD GROW A LITTLE MORE

I'M SURE IF THEY WERE IN THE VAST OCEAN,
THEY WOULD BE LIBERATED TO GROW FREELY...
Park
GAH...
THIS IS BAD, I'LL NEVER GET OUT OF THE TEMPLE LIKE THIS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?


catch
catch
AHH
I need a break
HAA
HAA
HAA
HAAAH ~
I GUESS I'LL HELP HIM OUT
HUH,
DESPITE HIS LOOKS, DAIBUTSU SEEMS TO HAVE NO STAMINA...

I GUESS THIS IS THE LAST NIGHT I'LL SEE SHANA...
IF WE HELP HIM ESCAPE,
STOMP
EEK!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!

IS THIS EVERY-ONE?
UGH... I'M SO SLEEPY


KAJIKA'S GROUP ESPECIALLY!
YES.
THEN LET'S SPLIT UP AND KEEP WATCH.

YEAH

KEEP CAREFUL WATCH AND LET'S SEE HYOUTA OFF.
FROM MAO-TEN, WE'LL TAKE HIM TO KIFUNE

U-Um, Akahana, actually ...
WHAT IS IT, DAI-BUTSU?
ARE YOU MUMBLING NONSENSE AGAIN?
DON'T SAY YOU'LL BE LONELY,
THIS IS FOR HYOUTA!
LET'S GO.

No, good. I won't budge. I have to do something, Kajika and the others are waiting...
HAA
HAA
What can I do?
I KNOW!!

I'M BETTING EVERYTHING ON THIS!!
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO IT WITH THIS STRAW

OKAY, IT WENT THROUGH" NOW I NEED TO PUT IT THROUGH AGAIN...
Slip
Ugh

IT'S THROUGH! NOW I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PICK UP THE BAR
THIS SHOULD DO IT!!
NUDGE
NUDGE
DAMN!

chk
chk
chk

PLEASE, LET ME MAKE IT IN TIME!!

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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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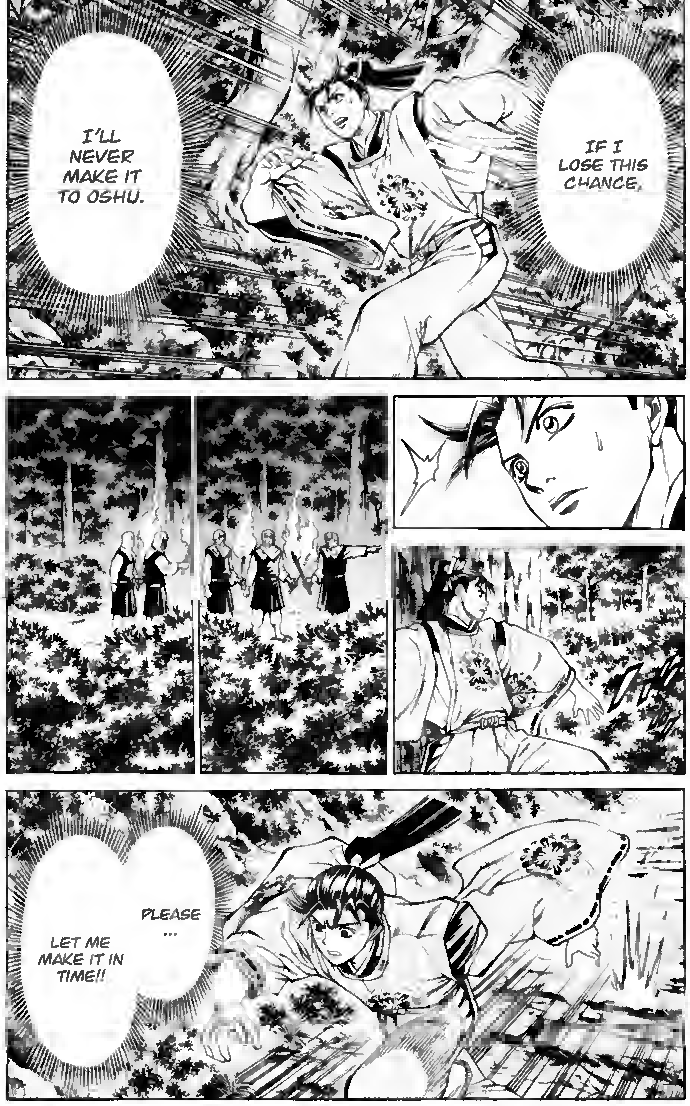
THE LONG WALK

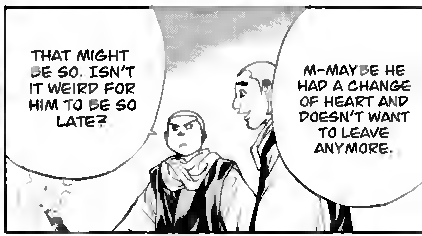
ザッ


I'LL NEVER MAKE IT TO OSHU.
IF I LOSE THIS CHANCE,
PLEASE ...
LET ME MAKE IT IN TIME!!

HE'S LATE. THAT HYOUTA...

IT'S STRANGE. I DON'T THINK HE WOULD BREAK SUCH A PROMISE.
THAT GUY ALWAYS DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS. LET'S JUST GO BACK!
BUT THAT'S GOOD, THEN WE CAN ALL STAY TOGETHER, RIGHT?

...


THAT MIGHT BE SO. ISN'T IT WEIRD FOR HIM TO BE SO LATE?
M-MAYBE HE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART AND DOESN'T WANT TO LEAVE ANYMORE.

SFX: BONK

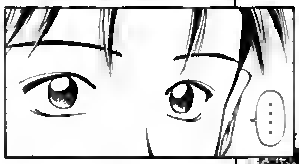
AA!
GAH!

ゴッ

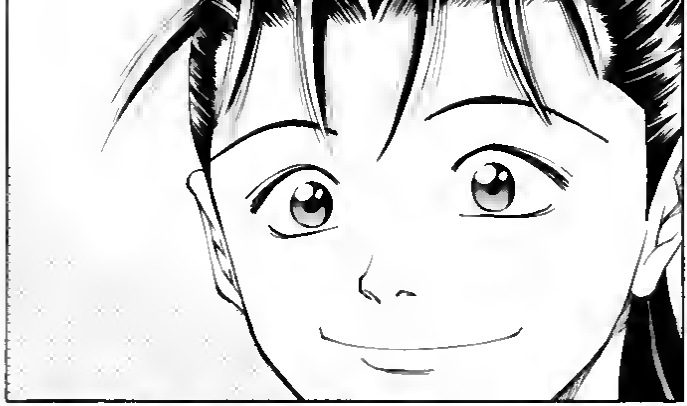
THAT SELFISH RUNT!

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A RUNT, HUH?!
HAA
HAA
HAA
HYOUTA!
AH...
WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?
MY BAD, I WAS LOCKED UP IN THE DISCIPLINE ROOM...
YOU ESCAPED? GOOD JOB.
ERM... HEY HYOUTA,
WELL WHATEVER LET'S HURRY UP, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
Aahh...
.....

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO BE TOO CAREFUL HERE, BUT KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, OKAY?
EIGHT


...

wave wave



HEY HYOUTA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY UP...

HEY! USHI-SAMA'S ASHES?!

AGH...

click

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'LL LEAVE HALF HERE.
WE NEVER DID MAKE A PROPER GRAVE FOR USHIWAKA, DID WE
THIS STONE HERE IS ABOUT MY SIZE,
WHICH IS THE SAME AS USHIWAKA'S
IT'S A PERFECT TOMBSTONE
IF USHIWAKA WERE TO BE HERE ON KURAMA MOUNTAIN,
HE'D DEFINITELY BE ABLE TO GO TO HEAVEN.

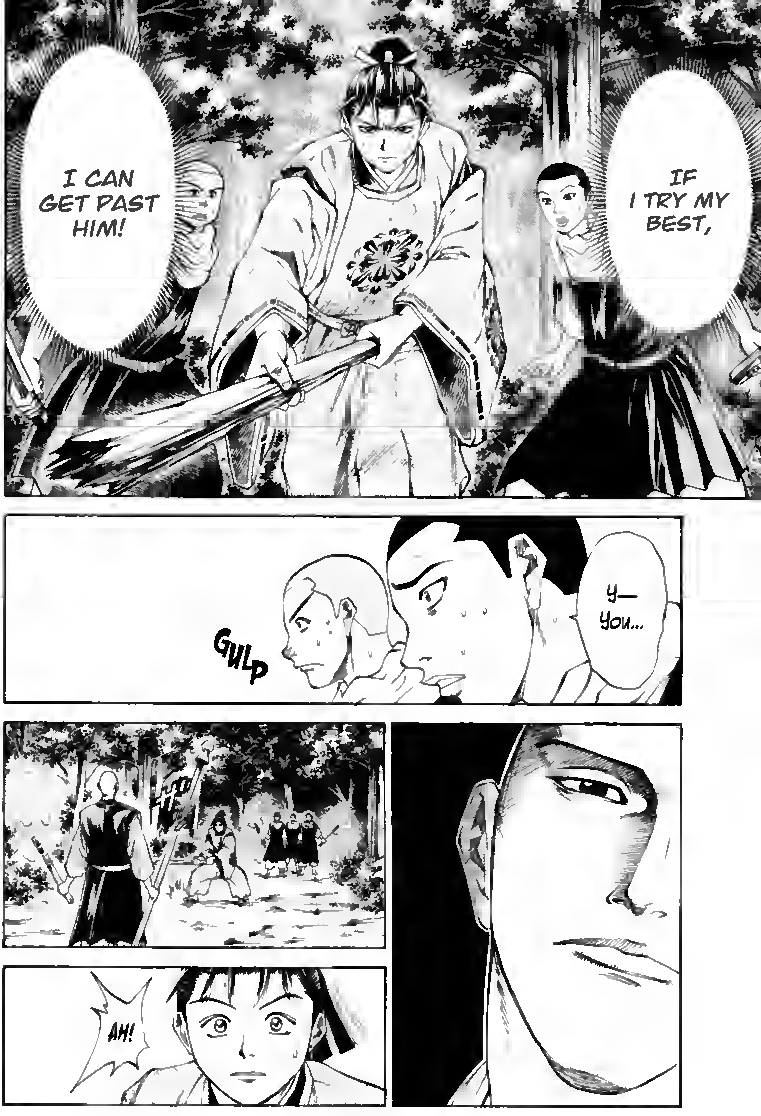
SINCE THE MONKS LIVING ON THIS MOUN-TAIN
ARE ALL GOOD PEOPLE.
...
I AGREE, IT FEELS FITTING THAT USHI-SAMA CAN BE HERE
YEAH, NAZ-UNA AND THE OTHERS WERE FRIENDS WITH 'USHIWAKA' TOO...
clap

AT LONG LAST,
I'M LEAVING THE MOUNTAIN...
WE'RE ALMOST AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE CLEAR

Is.
Is somebody there?
SHOCK
Ryo...

RYOUKEN-
SAMA.
!!!

Why... Why here ...?
S-Sorry...
WHEN SHOUEN-SAN CAUGHT ME, I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING!
SAY WHAT?!
YOU IDIOT!!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
NO!!
TO GO BACK ...
AFTER GETTING THIS FAR ...
EH?


I CAN GET PAST HIM!
IF I TRY MY BEST,
GULP
y— you...
AH!

ボ
ボ
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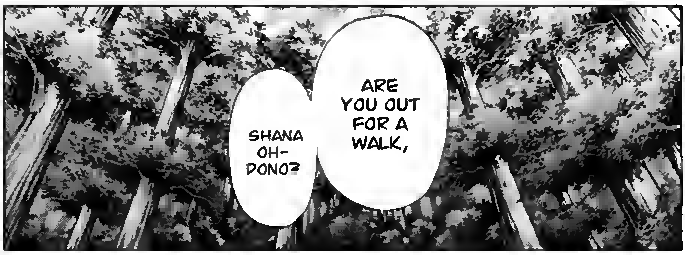
ボ
ボ
カラン
カラン
AAH
...

スリーラ

IT'S OVER...

I CAN'T KEEP OUR PROMISE... I'M SORRY.
USHIWAKA... I CAN'T.


ARE YOU OUT FOR A WALK,
SHANA OH-DONO?

HUH?

FROM HERE ON OUT, THERE WILL BE MANY HARDSHIPS FACING YOU.
REMEMBER TO STAND FIRM AND MIND YOUR FOOTING,
NO MATTER YOUR INJURIES OR SETBACKS.
LIFT

ナ!!
ル!!

C-COULD THEY BE?!
YOUR WALK IS GOING TO BE A LONG ONE, IT SEEMS TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
...
THEY KNOW EVERYTHING, AND STILL...!
Ryouken-chan

TAKE CARE, KID.
STAY HEALTHY, OKAY?
DON'T FORGET KURAMA, WILL YA?

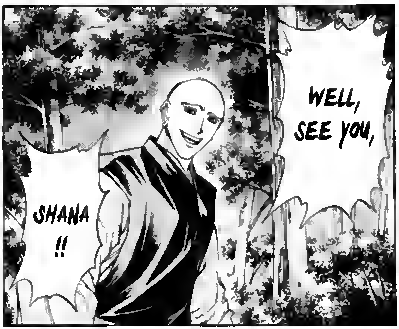
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, SHITTY BRAT.
I HOPE YOU DO GOOD.
SEE YOU AGAIN SOMEDAY SHANA!
PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT, KID.
IT'LL BE BORING WITHOUT YOU.
WE WON'T FORGET YOU.
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY
TRUST YOUR FRIENDS, KID.
REMEMBER KURAMA.
DON'T FORGET TO WRITE!
IT WAS FUN HAVING YOU HERE.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, TELL US.
TRY YOUR BEST, KID
DON'T EAT WEIRD THINGS ANYMORE.
SEE YOU AROUND.
KEEP YOURSELF WARM.

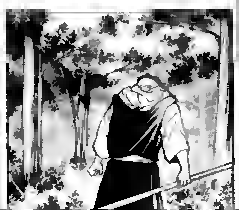
YOU CAN DO ANYTHING.
TRY YOUR BEST!
STOP MAKING TROUBLE.
SHOUEN

YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK TO US!!
WELL.. IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND,
TURTLE FACE!!
SHUT UP,
TURN
くぅ
うるぅ

Ah
YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS SO SLOPPY,
IT'S ANNOY-ING!!
Every-one

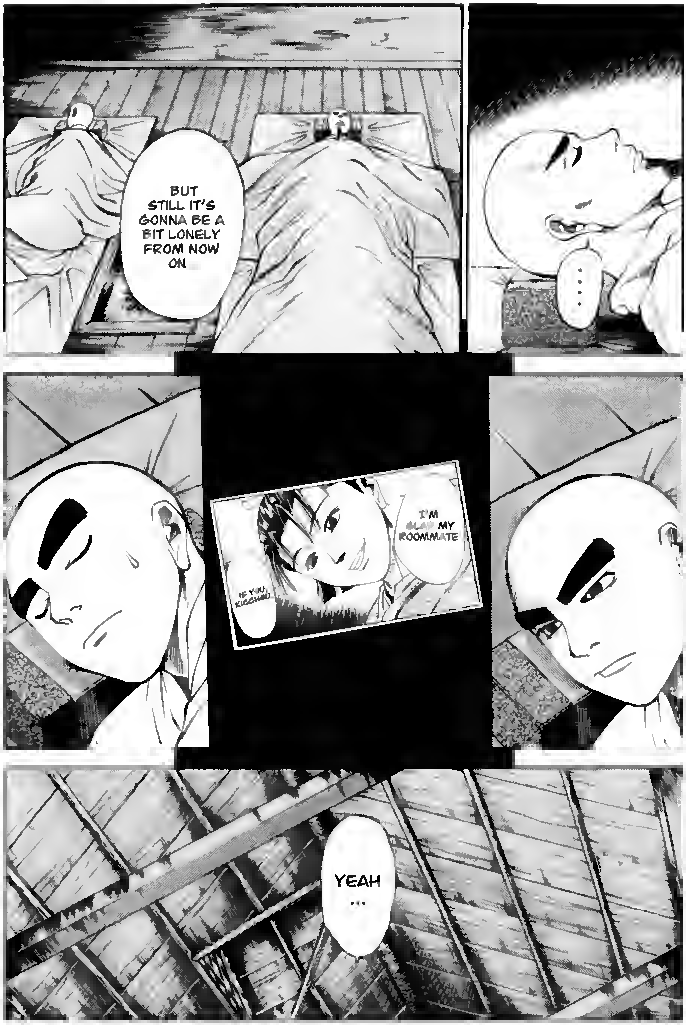
THANK YOU...


WELL, SEE YOU,
SHANA !!



DID YOU HEAR FROM RYOUKEN-SAMA?
SHANA OH IS LEAVING THE TEMPLE TONIGHT.

THIS TEMPLE IS JUST TOO SMALL.
FOR SOMEONE LIKE SHANA OH,
YOU'RE OKAY WITH-OUT SAYING GOODBYE?
YOU'VE LIVED UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH HIM FOR NINE YEARS,
AND IF HE WANTS TO TAKE OFF, IT'S FINE
I DON'T RECALL BEING FRIENDS WITH THAT GUY,
SO I DIDN'T NOTICE ANYTHING AT ALL
I'M ASLEEP HERE ANYWAY,
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME


BUT STILL IT'S GONNA BE A BIT LONELY FROM NOW ON
...
I'M [illegible] MY ROOMMATE
IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE
YEAH ...

WELL, THIS IS FAR ENOUGH FOR US
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN
OF COURSE!
DAIBUTSU,
AKAHANA,
KAJIKA,

THAT BOND WILL NEVER DIE.
EVEN SEPARATED, WE'RE STILL BROTHERS.
YEAH!
OH YEAH, HYOUTA, YA WANNA DO "THAT" ONE LAST TIME?
"THAT?"
EVERY-ONE'S SO TALL NOW
IT'S IM-POSSIBLE, MAN

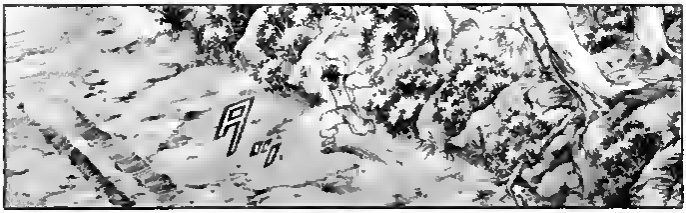
NO ESCAPING IT, HUH
Sigh
IT'S OKAY, WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING YOU KNOW!
YEAH, LET'S DO THIS!
HUP!
HUP!
RIGHT!
WHOA!
ALL RIGHT, UP WE GO!

AHH
THIS FEELING
THIS BRINGS
ME BACK

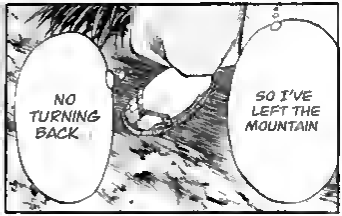
APOLOGIZE
TO KICCHOU
AND NAZUNA AND
EVERYBODY ELSE
FOR PUTTING UP
WITH MY PRANKS
FOR SO LONG,
OKAY?
RIGHT

IF RIN CONTACTS YOU GUYS,
MAKE SURE YOU FIND OUT WHERE SHE IS
GOT IT.
AND ERM...
YOU GUYS TAKE CARE.
OF COURSE ...
SFX: TAP
RIGHT!

TAKE CARE!
SEE YOU GUYS LATER!
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET,
I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE KIND OF MAN HE HAS BECOME.
HE'LL BE FINE NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES.
HE'S REALLY GONE NOW.
.....
YUP ...



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING 'TIL NOW.


NO TURNING BACK
SO I'VE LEFT THE MOUNTAIN

T-THAT NOISE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT... A GHOST?!

WOOOO

THE MERCHANT KICHIJI!!!

I FOLLOWED THE SMELL OF MONEY, AND WHAT I FOUND WAS YOU~
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
TALKING OF PEOPLE AS IF THEY ARE PROP-ERTY
I'LL DELIVER YOU TO LORD NAGANARI'S ESTATE
SINCE I CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE YOU TAKEN BY THE TAIRA CLAN,
BUT FOL-LOWING HIM IS MY ONLY CHOICE..
BECAUSE I PROMISED USHIWAKA!!

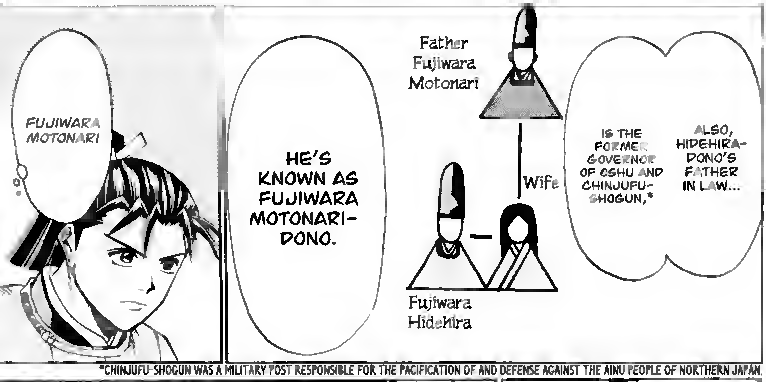
HUH?
UWAAA!
HELP US, PLEASE!
HEL...
HUH?
AGAIN ...
...
AT... THE GOJOU BRIDGE!
WHAT'S WRONG?

IEEE!
HE'S NOT CHASING YOU ANYMORE SO JUST GO HOME
WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME?
RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN A WARRIOR MONK...
HUNTING FOR KATANA ON THE GOJOU BRIDGE.
EVEN THREE OR FOUR SAMURAI TOGETHER CAN'T HANDLE HIM
APPARENTLY HE'S A STRONG AND FEARSOME FELLOW
WARRIOR MONK?

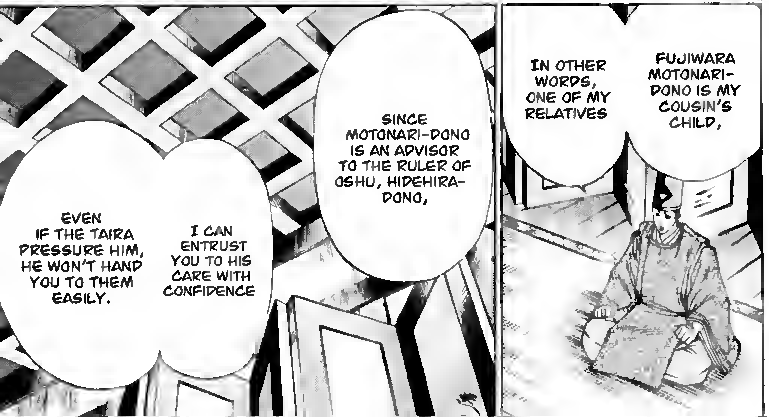
JUST AS USHIWAKA'S DEATH DREW OUT THE DARKNESS IN YOUR HEART,
HE MUST BE BURDENED BY SOMETHING, TOO.
A DARKNESS IN THE HEART ...
SO? WANT TO GO SEE THE MONK?
UP FOR A BIT OF SIGHT-SEEING?
THANKS, BUT NO.
LET'S JUST GET TO THE ESTATE.
TCH
YOU'RE NO FUN

MADAM,
MADAM,
ESTATE NAGANARI
HYOUTA HAS COME FOR A VISIT.
EH?
HYOUTA?
WE'LL DEPART IN SIX DAYS, PLEASE WAIT HERE QUIETLY.
I'LL BE HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
six days

HYOUTA,
WE'VE BEEN WAITING
OH NO— THE TEMPLE WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
NOW YOUR LIFE WON'T BE FILLED WITH RESTRICTIONS ANYMORE.
I'M SO GLAD.
YOU'RE FINALLY FREE OF THAT TEMPLE,
YES
HE WILL BRING ME TO OSHU.
YES,
YOU MUST HAVE FELT TRAPPED
BUT STILL, TO SPEND NINE YEARS IN THAT TEMPLE,
HAVE YOU HEARD FROM KICHIJI?
—AND,

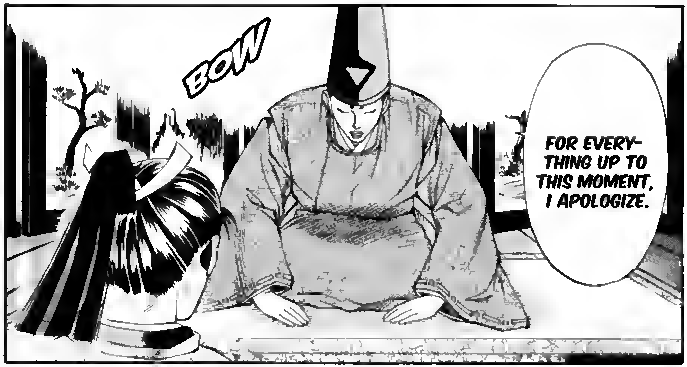


*CHINJUFU-SHOGUN WAS A MILITARY POST RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PACIFICATION OF AND DEFENSE AGAINST THE AINU PEOPLE OF NORTHERN JAPAN.


SINCE MOTONARI-DONO IS AN ADVISOR TO THE RULER OF OSHU, HIDEHIRA-DONO,
I CAN ENTRUST YOU TO HIS CARE WITH CONFIDENCE
EVEN IF THE TAIRA PRESSURE HIM, HE WON'T HAND YOU TO THEM EASILY.
IN OTHER WORDS, ONE OF MY RELATIVES
FUJIWARA MOTONARI-DONO IS MY COUSIN'S CHILD,

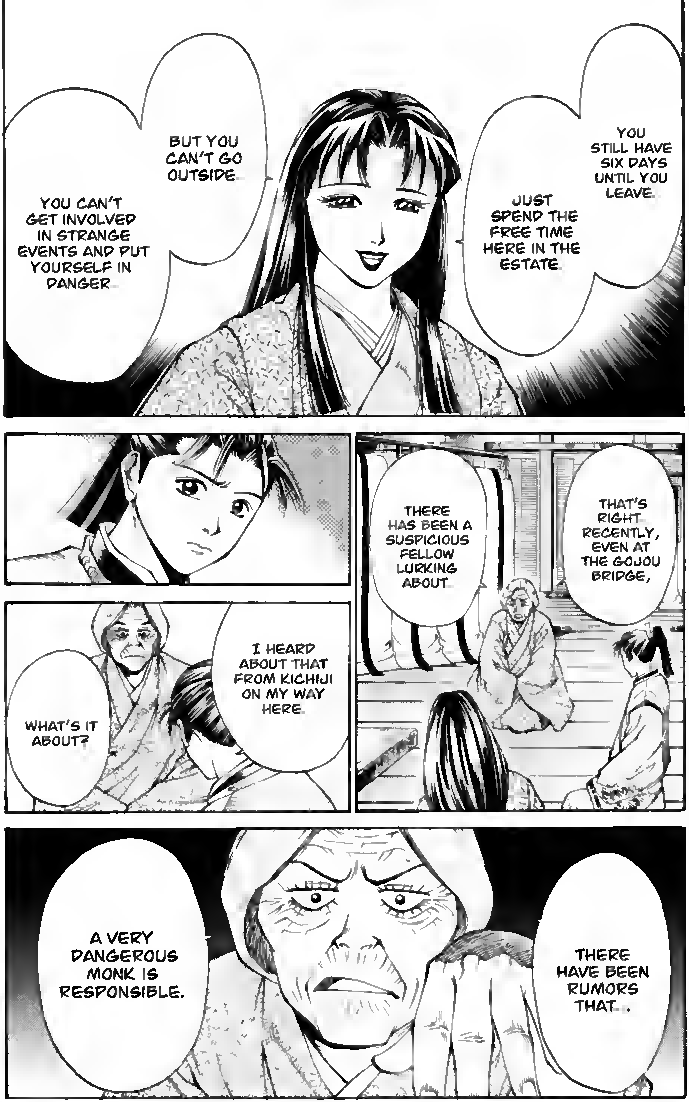
YES
HYOUTA,

NAGANARI-SAMA HAS CONTACTED MOTONARI-SAMA
TO TAKE YOU IN.


BOW
FOR EVERY-THING UP TO THIS MOMENT, I APOLOGIZE.

WE MADE YOU ACT AS USHIWAKA'S DOUBLE,
AND NOW EVEN THE TAIRA IDENTIFY YOU AS USHIWAKA.
EH?

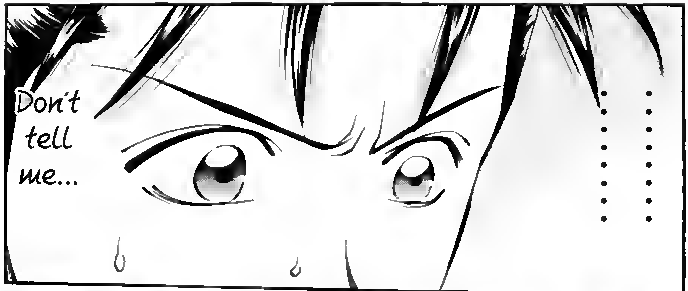
AND STILL I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND YOU TO SOME FARAWAY UNKNOWN LAND IN OSHU. PLEASE ENDURE IT!
BUT I WANT TO SAVE THAT LIFE. AND I WANT YOU TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY.
YOUR VOICE AND APPEARANCE ARE NOW RECOGNIZED AS THOSE OF USHIWAKA,
SO YOU WILL NEVER KNOW A CAREFREE LIFE, WITH THE HEIKE READY TO TAKE IT FROM YOU AT ANY MOMENT.
TO KNOW HE CARES ABOUT ME THIS MUCH...
EVEN THOUGH I'M ONLY A SUBSTITUTE
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOUR KINDNESS AS LONG AS I LIVE.
THANK YOU.


YOU STILL HAVE SIX DAYS UNTIL YOU LEAVE.
JUST SPEND THE FREE TIME HERE IN THE ESTATE.
BUT YOU CAN'T GO OUTSIDE.
YOU CAN'T GET INVOLVED IN STRANGE EVENTS AND PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER.
THAT'S RIGHT. RECENTLY, EVEN AT THE GOJOU BRIDGE,
THERE HAS BEEN A SUSPICIOUS FELLOW LURKING ABOUT.
I HEARD ABOUT THAT FROM KICHIJI ON MY WAY HERE.
WHAT'S IT ABOUT?
THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS THAT...
A VERY DANGEROUS MONK IS RESPONSIBLE.

AND IMMENSE STRENGTH.
WITH A BODY AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN,
AND BURNED DOWN 54 TEMPLES INCLUDING EVEN THE MONKS' QUARTERS BEFORE COMING HERE. HE'S A TERRIFYING MAN.
HE KILLED A MONK FROM MOUNT HARIMA,
STEALING AND COLLECTING THEIR KATANA.
AND NOW HE ATTACKS ANY SAMURAI CROSSING THE GOJOU BRIDGE, EVERY NIGHT,
HE B-BURNED THE TEMPLES DOWN COMPLETELY?

I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
WHY WOULD HE DO THAT?
HRM
THAT MONK OFFERED THE OLD MAN A CANE AND SLOWLY WALKED HIM ACROSS.
BUT THERE'S ALSO A TALE...
THAT WHEN AN OLD MAN PASSING THE GOJOU BRIDGE SPRAINED HIS LEG,
I HAVE HEARD STORIES ALSO,
CHASED OUT OF MOUNT HIEI.
I HEARD HE IS A MONK...
MOUNT HIEI!!

BAN
...
BEN
...
YES THAT'S IT!
ERMM
...
ERM
...
HIS NAME IS... I KNOW IT...
BENKEI,
IS HIS NAME.
MUSA-SHIBO
MONK
...
A BODY AS BIG AS A MOUNTAIN
...
MOUNT HIEI...
STRONG
...



CHAPTER 34, END

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by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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Chapter 35
For an Old Friend

I HAVEN'T HAD ANY-THING THIS GOOD IN SO LONG!
DELI-CIOUS!
DELI-CIOUS!
HEE HEE,
HYOUTA IS STILL EXACTLY THE SAME AS ON THE DAY HE FIRST ARRIVED
HEY... SLOW DOWN A BIT, WOULD YOU?
YOU JUST WOKE UP. DON'T EAT SO FAST
SERI-OUSLY ...
YOU EAT SO MUCH BUT YOU'RE STILL SO SHORT...

SHUT UP ABOUT MY HEIGHT
UOOHHHH!
Such a hooligan
I bet the Kurama Folks are relieved that you're gone...
If you had stayed, you'd probably have turned out like the evil monk at Gojou Bridge
Gojou...
A MAN FROM MOUNT HIEI,
MASSIVE BUILD, EXTREMELY STRONG...
IT CAN'T BE...

LORD NAGA-NARI,
COULD YOU LEND ME A SWORD?
A SWORD? WHY DO YOU NEED A SWORD?
?
I WILL GO AND MEET...
THAT MUSASHIBO BENKEI
W-WHAT?!

FRIEND?
HE MIGHT BE A FRIEND OF MINE...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! HE'S AN EVIL ARSONIST AND A MURDERER!
MOREOVER, GOJOU BRIDGE IS NEAR ROKUHARA, WHAT IF YOU'RE CAUGHT?
YOU'RE LEAVING FOR OSHU IN FIVE DAYS. YOU SHOULDN'T BE TAKING SUCH DANGEROUS RISKS!
THAT'S RIGHT...
LOOK, EVEN LORD NAGANARI IS DISPLEASED
HE CARES SO MUCH ABOUT YOU...
I GUESS IT WON'T WORK...

ガシャ
EH?
THIS SWORD IS ADORNED WITH GOLD
THAT BENKEI SHOULD WANT IT.
LORD LORD NAGA-NARI...
I... I CAN GO?

YOU WISH TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER HE IS YOUR FRIEND, RIGHT?
Y-YES...
THEN GO AND HAVE A LOOK, BUT MAKE SURE YOU WEAR A DISGUISE...
DIS-GUISE ?
TO BE SAFE, GO DISGUISED, LATE AT NIGHT...
ROKUHARA SHOULD NOT NOTICE YOU THAT WAY
IT'S OKAY TO LET BENKEI HAVE THAT SWORD, TOO.
YOUR SAFETY IS MORE IMPORT-ANT.
LORD NIGH-NAIL..
HASHIKA, HELP HIM PREPARE.
YES.
THANK YOU...
I WILL BORROW IT.

LORD NAGA-NARI,
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS?
DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS THE RIGHT CHOICE?
HMM
DESPITE THE DANGER, HYOUTA STILL WANTS TO GO.
IT SHOWS HOW VERY IMPORTANT THAT FRIEND IS TO HIM
ONCE HE LEAVES FOR OSHU, HE MIGHT NOT RETURN FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE.
AFTER MEETING THIS FRIEND OF HIS, I HOPE HE CAN START HIS JOURNEY WITH A LIGHTER HEART
AND
HYOUTA'S HEART CARES DEEPLY FOR HIS FRIENDS, AND EVEN USHIWAKA BENEFITED FROM HIS HELP.
DON'T YOU THINK HIS HEART IS SOMETHING WE SHOULD TREASURE?
YES
BUT... SINCE THEY SAY HE'S AN EVIL MONK,
I HOPE HE'S NOT HYOUTA'S FRIEND

ゴロ…
ガラン

MM... HAVING SOMETHING ON MY MOUTH FEELS SO UNCOMFORTABLE...
BUT... THIS IS SO THE ROKUHARA DOESN'T FIND ME
WHEN HE SAID A DISGUISE, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO BE DRESSED AS A WOMAN...
KICCHOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT EVER HEAR ABOUT THIS
GOJOU BRIDGE IS JUST AHEAD
PLEASE LET IT BE SOMEONE ELSE!
IT MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE.
ONIWAKA IS DEFINITELY NOT LIKE THIS BENKEI.

カラン
カラン
カラン
UWAAAHHH!!!
SO THIS IS GOJOU BRIDGE.

ヘラヘラヘラ!
カッ
カッ
!!
W... WHAT?!

ミシ…
UWAHH!
ミシ…

AND IN-CREDIBLY STRONG TO LIFT A MAN WITH ONE HAND!
H-HUGE!
AAAAHH!
E... EEEK ...

Y-YES!
YES!
EEEK...
LEAVE YOUR SWORD BEHIND.
I CAN'T SEE CLEARLY FROM HERE
I MUST GET CLOSER!
カラン
コロン

HOLD!
ARE YOU FROM THE HEIKE OR THE GENJI?

A LADY CARRYING A SWORD ADORNED WITH GOLD...
AND WEARING SUCH FINERY, YOU MUST BE WITH THE HEIKE!
Damn, his face is covered. I can't see clearly...
AH!

ONIWAKA!
IT MUST BE! ALTHOUGH THE LOOK IN HIS EYES IS MORE MENACING, THIS IS DEFINITELY ONIWAKA!

WHY WOULD YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
PUT THAT SWORD DOWN.
NO.
WHAT ?
EVEN A WOMAN ...
IS NO EXCEPTION!
ドド
You ...
HMM ?

HOW COULD YOU?!
SO THE RUMOR IS TRUE?
Keishin-sama
ONI-WAKA!
YOU EVEN ATTACK WOMEN?!

I WILL PUNISH YOU SEVERELY!
KNEEL PROPERLY!
KEI-SHIN-SAMA?
AH!
Uhh
WHO IS THIS PERSON? HE CAME HERE TO INTER-FERE ?
WHAT AN IDIOT
I'M FINE
ARE YOU HURT?

ONIWAKA
...
AH
OH...
THE STREETS ARE DANGEROUS AT NIGHT, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO WALK YOU BACK.
HMM?
EH?
AH, THIS IS BAD!
I FORGOT I'M PRETENDING TO BE A WOMAN!
ゴホン ゴホン
THEN ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I AM KEISHIN, A MONK FROM MOUNT HIEI.
I TRAVELED HERE FOR AN ASSEMBLY IN THE CAPITAL,
AND I HAPPENED TO HEAR ABOUT GOJOU BRIDGE,
SO I CAME TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH OF THE RUMORS...
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT YOU ARE NOT HURT AT ALL.

DO YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?

HE WAS ORIGINALLY A MONK FROM MOUNT HIEI,
KNOWN AS ONIWAKA-MARU.
I WAS HIS TEACHER.

YES...

HE'S STILL HERE
ON MOUNT HIEI, BECAUSE HIS BUILD WAS DIFFERENT,
HE WAS OSTRACIZED AND BULLIED BY THE OTHERS.
BUT HE IS ACTUALLY EXTREMELY KIND AND INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED
HE TREATED ME WITH GREAT RESPECT,
AND SOMETIMES, HE WOULD SHOW ME A RARE SMILE AND SHARE HIS INNER THOUGHTS
Oniwaka
HE WOULD SAY,
"I HAVE A FRIEND TRAINING AT KURAMA TEMPLE. I MUST WORK HARD SO HE IS PROUD OF ME"
THEREFORE,
EVEN WHEN HE WAS BULLIED, HE NEVER GAVE UP. HE ENDURED IT AND CONTINUED TRAINING.

EH?
HE ENDURED EVERYTHING, BUT SOME STILL COULD NOT ACCEPT HIM, AND EVENTUAL-LY...
IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO, WHEN IT HAPPENED
I HAVE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE FOR ONE REASON.
FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, THE HEAD MONK'S BELOVED VASE...
WENT MISS-ING.
WASN'T IT ONIWAKA?
CONFESS!
WHO DID IT?!

I JUST SAW HIM BY THE VASE!
YEP, IT WAS ONIWA-KA!!
R-RIGHT!
THAT MONSTROUS BRUTE MUST HAVE DONE IT!
EH?
I didn't...
No
I didn't
ONI-WAKA, DID YOU DO IT?
A PIECE OF THE VASE!
THIS WRETCH HID IT!
LOOK, THERE'S SOME-THING...
BEHIND ONIWAKA!

...I didn't.
No,
DID YOU HIDE IT?
ONI-WAKA!
AH!
I WILL REPORT THIS TO THE HEAD MONK!
N-NO!!
IT WASN'T ME!
IT WASN'T ME!
N-NO!!
LET GO!
HEY!

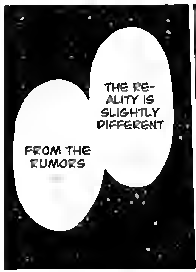
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
IT WASN'T ME!
AJIYARI-SAMA!
AJIYARI-SAMA!
UUAAAHH!
IN THE PAST, HE OFTEN HURT OTHERS UNINTENTIONALLY.
BUT THIS TIME, EVEN I WAS UNABLE TO PROTECT HIM,
AND EVENTUALLY, HE HAD TO LEAVE MOUNT HIEI.

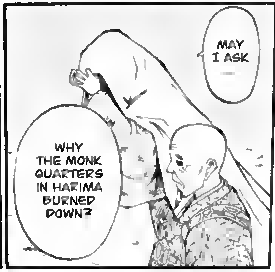
I AM SO SORRY I MUST BE HEAVY. PUT ME DOWN, I CAN WALK
I WANTED TO SEE YOU OFF, BUT YOU ENDED UP CARRY-ING ME
NO.. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO DO THIS
ｽﾞｰﾝ
.....
DO YOU HAVE ANY-WHERE ELSE TO GO?
WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS NOW?

TAKE THIS TO MOUNT SHOSHA IN HARIMA.
I HAVE A FRIEND THERE, HE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR A WHILE
I am sorry.
I am very sorry
I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING TO YOU.
YOU SUFFERED ON THIS MOUNTAIN BECAUSE OF ME.
I'M A USELESS TEACHER I WAS UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING...
I AM SO VERY SORRY...
Keishin-sama
LET'S STOP HERE, AND SAY FAREWELL...

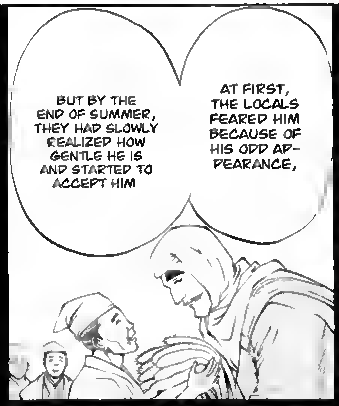
ONI-WAKA, GOOD LUCK...
I KNOW IF YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT, YOUR HARD WORK WILL BE RECOGNIZED
WITH HARD WORK AND VIRTUOUS LIVING, I BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND LEAVING THE MOUNTAIN CAN BE A GOOD THING
LEAVE BEHIND YOUR DESIRES, AND HOLD COMPASSION IN YOUR HEART. I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.
Yes...
Thank you for your care
TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH!
LEARN TO PROPERLY CONTROL THE STRENGTH YOU WERE GIFTED WITH.

He still had such troubles after I saw him last..


THE REALITY IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE RUMORS


MAY I ASK
WHY THE MONK QUARTERS IN HARIMA BURNED DOWN?

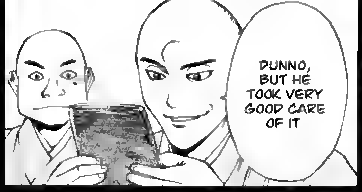
AH...


AT FIRST, THE LOCALS FEARED HIM BECAUSE OF HIS ODD APPEARANCE,
BUT BY THE END OF SUMMER, THEY HAD SLOWLY REALIZED HOW GENTLE HE IS AND STARTED TO ACCEPT HIM

AFTER TRAVELING FROM MOUNT HIEI TO MOUNT SHOSHA,
HE CHANGED HIS NAME TO MUSASHIBO BENKEI AND STAYED AND TRAINED IN THE MONK QUARTERS.

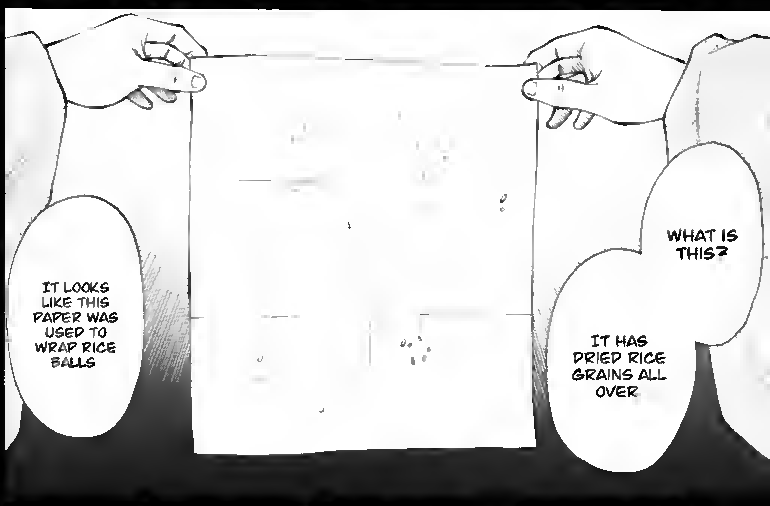
HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME...

ぐぐ
おお
THERE WAS A MONK NAMED KAIEN...
KEEP WATCH FOR ME.
SERIOUSLY, NOT A SINGLE THING OF VALUE...
ゴゴゴ

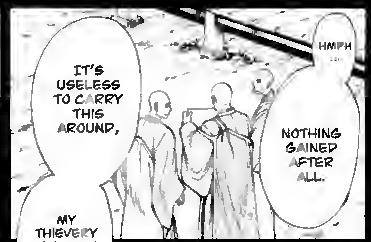

DUNNO, BUT HE TOOK VERY GOOD CARE OF IT

MAYBE IT'S A WALLET?
HEH HEH HEH

HMM ?


IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PAPER WAS USED TO WRAP RICE BALLS
WHAT IS THIS?
IT HAS DRIED RICE GRAINS ALL OVER

メラ
メラ
メラ


IT'S USELESS TO CARRY THIS AROUND,
HMPH
NOTHING GAINED AFTER ALL.
MY THIEVERY MIGHT BE DISCOVERED.

KEEP SOMETHING OF VALUE ON YOU, IDIOT
I REALLY THOUGHT THAT MONSTER GUY...
WOULD CARRY SOMETHING MORE SIGNIFICANT ON HIM...
HAA
HAA
HAA
Kaien...
W-WHAT'S WRONG, BENKEI?
Paper...
The paper, where...?

W-What are you talking about?
YOU WERE SEEN...
ENTERING MY MEDITATION ROOM*...
*THE MEDITATION ROOM IS ESSENTIALLY RENKEI'S ROOM. THE LIVING QUARTERS ARE ONLY FOR SLEEPING, SO ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES ARE DONE ELSEWHERE (INCLUDING NAPPING.)
THE PAPER IS PROOF OF MY FRIENDSHIP WITH SOMEONE FROM KURAMA TEMPLE...
I BEG YOU, RETURN IT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
ゴッ
ゴゴゴ

ボキッ
ゴッ
ビキッ
ビキッ
ビキッ
AAAHHHH!
WHERE
IS THE
PAPER
?!!

It's ...
It's in the fire-pit... next to the room...
ARE YOU OKAY, KAIEN?
Uhh ...
That scum ...
HEY,
BURN THIS ROOM DOWN.
EH?
NOW!! BURN IT DOWN!!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
O... OF COURSE ...

A FIRE!!

WE CAN'T DO IT! THE FIRE IS WAY TOO STRONG!

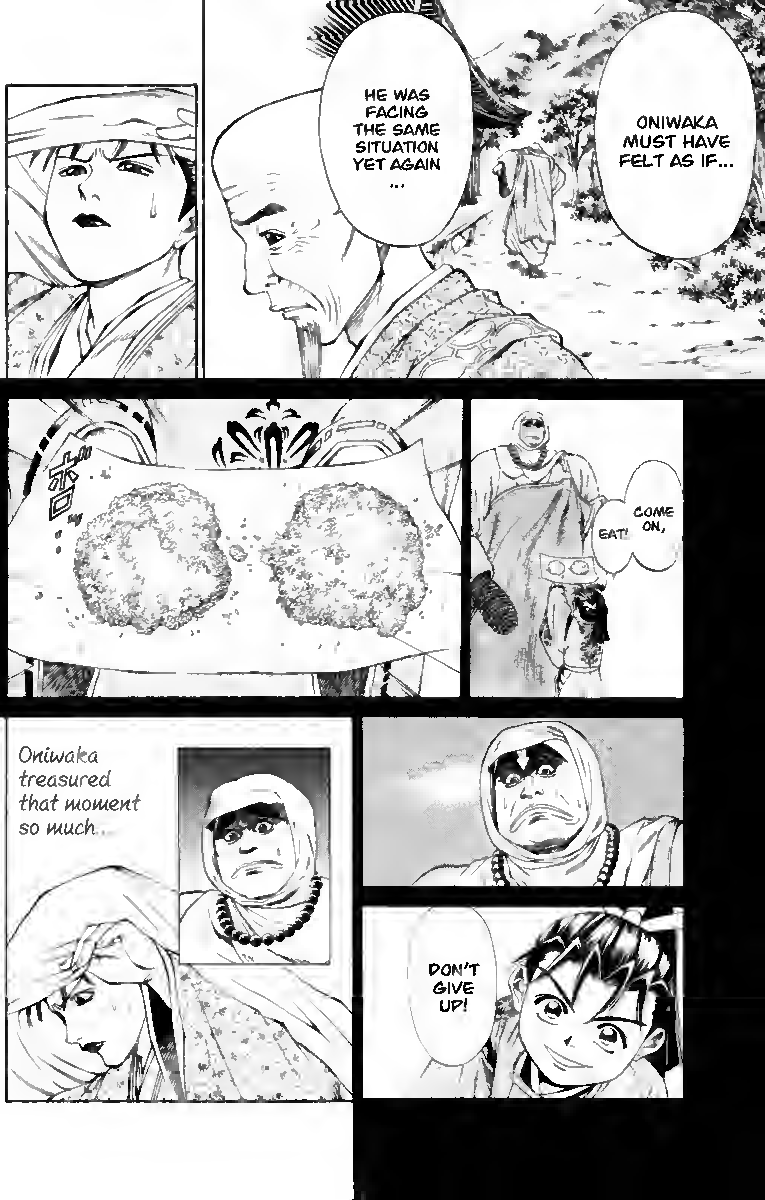
IT'S SPREADING TO THE NEXT ROOM!
FASTER!

KAIEN, ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAP-PENED ?!

KAIEN!

AH!
SOMEONE'S THERE!!

Benkei ...
We had a disagreement, and he became violent...
He set the fire... and ran...
WHAT?!
BENKEI?!
BENKEI! THE FIRE WAS SET BY BENKEI!!!
CATCH HIM!
BENKEI!
HE SET THE FIRE!


ONIWAKA MUST HAVE FELT AS IF...
HE WAS FACING THE SAME SITUATION YET AGAIN ...
COME ON, EAT!
DON'T GIVE UP!
Oniwaka treasured that moment so much...

WHEN ONI-WAKA LEFT EVERYTHING HE KNEW AT MOUNT HIEI TO TRAVEL TO HARIMA,
HE MUST HAVE BELIEVED HIS FRIEND FROM KURAMA WAS HIS ONLY FRIEND IN THE WORLD.
I BELIEVE
THAT HAS BEARING ON GOJOU BRIDGE AS WELL.
HE HEARD THAT SHANA OH HAD GENJI BLOOD,
SO HE ONLY TAKES SWORDS FROM THE HEIKI CROSSING THE BRIDGE.
WHY... FOR ME...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS FOR ME?
I MUST DO SOME-THING!

MISS,
FOR WHAT JUST HAPPENED, PLEASE FORGIVE HIM,
BECAUSE HE CARES SO DEEPLY FOR HIS FRIEND
HYOUTA!
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, I WAS SO WORRIED...
I'M SO GLAD YOU WEREN'T CAPTURED BY THE RO-KUHARA...
DID YOU AC-COMPLISH WHAT YOU WANTED?

W-WHAT?!
WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS?
TOMOR-ROW...
I MUST RETURN.
NO... I MUST GO...
I HAVE TO GO...
I MUST STEP FORWARD,
AND STOP ONIWAKA FROM MAKING FURTHER MISTAKES!
VOLUME 9: END.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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あとがき

最近「遮那王」「山賊王」の他に違う作品を二つ描きたくなっています。一つは内緒で、まだ言えませんが、もう一つは下のカットにある「いぬ侍」です。

元はというと、うちで飼ってる犬、ミニチュアダックスフントの大きくたれている耳をいたずらで後ろで縛ってみたら、なんと、見事な侍顔に変身したではないですか！特にその姿で気に入ったのが、頭の形が月代をそったように見えて素晴らしくカッコ良く思えたのでした。

「こいつを主人公に何か描けないものか？」と考えたら、次々にアイディアが浮かんでくるのですよ！

さて、この「いぬ侍」、どこで発表しようか思案中なのですが、まずは、「遮那王」の次巻のオマケページにでも描いてみる‥‥予定です。（スケジュール次第なのですが）期待せずに覚えておいてください。（笑）

2003.12.17　沢田ひろふみ

まんが峨山殿
作画 フクシママサヤス
これ以上二人は近しくなってはならぬ!!
娘よ 早く山を降りこの寺から去れい!!

ヤキモチヤキモチ…

あっ…
ちゅう
ちゅう
しゃ…
遮那さま!?

スチキ

ザー…
ぽつん…
ス…
なんか…もう…
教えたくねェ気分…

おまけページ

菊池孝行

寒い季節は温泉でぬくぬくしたいのですが、
もう何年も行ってません‥‥
めんどうで、部屋でゴロゴロしているうちに春が‥‥
いけませんね。

峨山直平外伝

ごぞんじ峨山直平が牛若…源太を「猫か…」とうそぶき逃がす場面より
ペコリ
必ず…
もどる！
ふ
中村幸四郎
猫…
うそ！
ハハハ
にょき
こうして天狗になったのさ！
おしまい

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遮那王 義経⑨

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